

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A hybrid automobile runs by transmitting a power from an engine and a power from a motor-generator MG2, and can store a part of the power from the engine and an electric power generated by a motor-generator MG1. In this hybrid automobile, a power requirement  $Pr^*$  of a drive shaft is set based on an accelerator opening, and a battery charge electric power  $P_{bi}$  is set based on SOC, and the sum of the power requirement  $Pr^*$  and the battery charge electric power  $P_{bi}$  are set as an engine target power  $Pe^*$ . When the engine target power  $Pe^*$  is less than a predetermined minimum value  $P_{low}$ , the engine target power  $Pe^*$  is changed to the minimum value  $P_{low}$ . Further, in accordance with this change, the battery charge electric power  $P_{bi}$  is also changed, and the engine and the motor-generators MG1, MG2 are operated. Since the minimum value  $P_{low}$  is set to be a value such that the efficiency with respect to the output of the engine becomes optimal, it is possible to prevent the engine from being operated in a low output region where the efficiency is low.